

Claims

- 1 A method for the measurement of the concentration of a material in a solution, the method comprising the steps of:
 - i measurement of the optical rotation of a solution sample;
 - ii treatment of the sample with a reactive agent, reactive with the material, sufficient to alter the optical rotation of the sample;
 - iii measurement of the optical rotation of the sample after treatment; and
 - iv calculation of the concentration of the material by reference to a suitable standard.
- 2 A method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the material is measured within a sugar solution.
- 3 A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the material is optically active.
- 4 A method according to claim 3, wherein the material is dextran or raffinose.
- 5 A method according to claim 4, wherein the material is dextran and the reactive agent is dextranase.
- 6 A method according to any preceding claim additionally comprising an additional treatment step with a further reactive agent.
- 7 A method according to any preceding claim wherein the reactive agent is provided in a context of a solid support.
- 8 A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the sample is purified with diatomaceous earth having a median particle size of less than 19.3 microns prior to polarimetric analysis.
- 9 Dextranase or α -galactosidase in the context of a solid support, suitable for use in the method of claims 1-8.

10 A kit for the assay of the concentration of a material in solution. according to any of claims 1-8, the kit comprising at least an agent reactive with the optically active material.

11 A method for the polarimetric analysis of a solution sample at near IR wavelengths, wherein the sample is pre-treated with diatomaceous earth having a median particle size of less than 19.3 microns before optical activity is measured.

12 A method according to claim 11, wherein the diatomaceous earth is Filter Cel E grade Celite, or functional equivalent.

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